

MESOPOTAMIAN MINUTE

- Current News on Agriculture & USDA in Iraq -

Office of Agricultural Affairs, U.S. Embassy, Baghdad

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Sheep Dip Tanks for Baghdad Coop - The Sheep Dip Tank Project is a replication of the first initial dip tank project implemented by PRT Baghdad. Slight modifications were made to the tanks to increase their effectiveness. Longer high-sides at the entrance to the tank were added and a small amount of river stone will be added to the final holding area to reduce the “mud” factor.



Iraqi Veterinary Medical Syndicate Workshop – The Iraqi Veterinary Medical Syndicate hosted a 5-day workshop for 40 veterinarians in Erbil, January 16-20. The workshop was co-taught by three Iraqi scholars who attended eight weeks of study in ruminant nutrition at Michigan State University (two MSU professors also lectured). The workshop is part of USDA’s continuing effort to develop veterinary capacity in Iraq.

Agricultural Extension Outreach – USDA International Agricultural Development Specialist, Susan Waage and PRT Baghdad Ag Advisor, Tim Lowery met with official of the College of Agriculture at Salahaddin University in Erbil, to discuss areas of collaboration with U.S. universities. Susan and Tim led discussions of various diploma/degree programs in agricultural extension and related areas. In addition, they also met with Baghdad University College of Agriculture officials and discussed an upcoming curriculum review and modernization, as well as collaboration between the College of Agriculture and the Ministry of Agriculture to strengthen existing staff knowledge and extension methodology.



Operation Little Yasser – PRT Ag Baghdad Advisor, Tim Lowery has organized the installation of greenhouses near schools in rural areas near Taji with high populations of orphans. This project will make available tools and supplies necessary to build the structure, as well as initial training for the teachers. The structure will also be used for vocational training. The local MoA personnel, as well as College of Agriculture staff, have both enthusiastically agreed to periodically visit the schools and instruct

both students and staff. Finally, 50% of all produce harvested will be donated to the families that responsible for the care of the schools orphans, while the remaining 50% will sustain the project into the future.

Personnel Update - There are currently 31 USDA personnel in Iraq including those with Provincial Reconstruction Teams (PRTs), at Embassy Baghdad or embedded with U.S. military units.

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